

ABSTRACT

An autoclave 41 comprises a chamber 42 in which medical equipment, for example, an endoscope is stored, a steam feeder 43, a vacuum pump 44, and a control unit 45. The steam feeder 43 feeds steam to the chamber 42. The vacuum pump 44 depressurizes the inside of the chamber 42. The control unit 45 controls the steam feeder 43 and vacuum pump 44. The autoclave 41 executes a first depressurization process that includes a step of depressurizing the chamber 42, an autoclaving process which succeeds the first depressurization process and in which the chamber 42 is pressurized, and a second depressurization process that succeeds the autoclaving process and includes a step of depressurizing the chamber 42. The autoclave 41 thus autoclaves the medical equipment stored in the chamber. Even when the medical equipment is autoclaved, deterioration of the internal parts of the medical equipment deriving from humidity can be prevented.